



# Multicultural & Diversity Newsletter

## Dec 2024

*Dec 3*

*International Day of Persons with Disabilities (UN)*

Dec 3 is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities, and draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all.

- Wikipedia



*Dec 8*

*Bodhi Day (Buddhist)*



In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.

*Dec 12*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)*

An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity, in 1531. Processions, dances, and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.



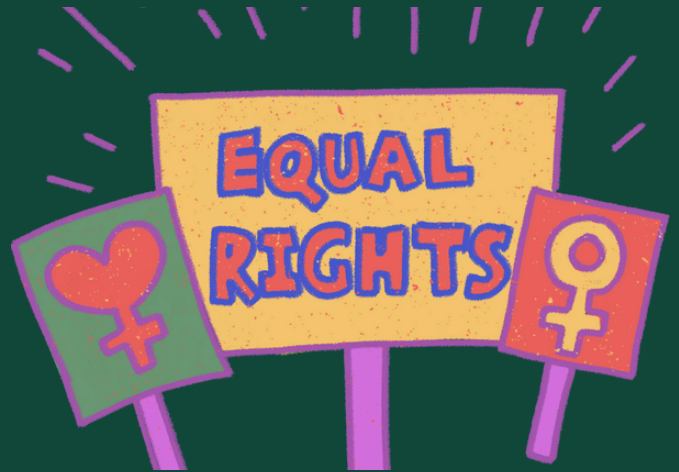


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## Universal Human Rights Month (UN)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the rights to work and education. Everyone is entitled to these rights without discrimination.



## Dec 1

### Rosa Parks Day (USA)



Rosa Louise McCauley Parks (Feb 4, 1913 - Oct 24, 2005) was an American activist in the civil rights movement. This day commemorates the arrest of Rosa in 1955 for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation. The United States Congress has honoured her as the "first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement".

## Dec 2

### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)

This is a yearly event organized by the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations emphasizes the fight against slavery as part of its commitment to human rights, recognizing that slavery is a grave violation. Slavery, in its modern form, remains a global problem, affecting over one million children trafficked each year for cheap labour or sexual exploitation. This Day serves as a reminder and a call to action to end slavery in all its forms.

- Wikipedia







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Dec 25

Christmas Day (Christian)



This Day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts, and using evergreen decorations to celebrate this day, the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities, it is a family day.

Dec 25 - Jan 2  
Hanukkah (Jewish)

The "Festival of Lights" is celebrated for eight days. In 2024, the festival begins on Wednesday, Dec 25, at sundown. About 164 B.C., Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate the temple, they found only enough consecrated oil to re-light the candelabra for one day. Miraculously, it remained lit for eight days. An eight-candle menorah is lit, with a place for the ninth, used to light the others. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the holy Temple and the altar.



## OTHER HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

- Dec 5 - Discovery Day (Haiti)
- Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (USA)
- Dec 16 - Day of Reconciliation (South Africa)
- Dec 26 - Boxing Day (Canada, Ireland, UK)
- Dec 26-Jan 1 - Kwanzaa (African American/Canadian)
- Dec 30 - Rizal Day (Philippines)
- Dec 31 - Omisoka (Japan)

## Reference

*Multicultural Calendar 2024.*  
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Toronto, ON.